Reclamation of Land Given to Sea Bird Project

1771. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sea Bird Naval Authorities has been handed over 17 acres of port land by the State Government of Karnataka long ago on the assurance that 17 acres of land will be reclaimed by the Sea Bird Naval Authorities which will be handed over to the Port Department of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the 17 acres of land has been reclaimed as assured;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when this 17 acres land will be reclaimed and handed over to the Port Department of State Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Land reclamation work can be taken up by Project Sea Bird Authorities only after the Karwar Port Authorities have obtained the mandatory environmental clearances. Karwar Port Authorities have been asked to obtain the said clearances.

(e) in view of (d) above, no definite time frame can be given.

Joint Naval Exercise with US, French and Russian Navy

1772. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy is likely to take part in landmark exercises with nuclear powered submarines and aircraft carriers belonging to the US, French and Russian Navies over the next three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is the first time that Navy will be training with the US and the French fleets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Indian Navy is scheduled to carry out bilateral exercises with the United States (US), French and Russian Navies during September, 2005 to November, 2005. Nuclear powered submarines of the US and French Navy and the aircraft carrier of the US Navy are likely to be part of their forces in these exercises.

(c) The Indian Navy has carried out bilateral exercise with the US French Navies in the past also.

Defence purchase during Kargil referred to CBI

1773. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have referred certain Kargil cases regarding defence purchases to the CBI for investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been set for CBI to submit its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total of 25 cases regarding defence purchases made during 'Operation Vijay' (Kargil) have been referred to Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. The list of 25 cases is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) It is for Central Bureau of Investigation to decide by what time they would be able to complete the investigation.